

## **Amendments to the Specification**

**Please amend the specification as follows:**

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 15, as follows:**

A further optical disc according to the present invention has a plurality of recording layers with each recording layer read by a read beam incident thereto from the same side of the disc. A drive information area for recording drive information is provided on at least one of ~~said~~ the plurality of layers, and an unrecorded blank area is provided in the other recording layers at the same radial position as the drive information area.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 5, as follows:**

~~Thus~~Thus, reusing the recording/playback conditions recorded in the drive information area of the data recording medium simplifies the learning process. As a result, less time is needed to complete the learning process, and the data recording and playback apparatus thus spends less time waiting before recording or playback can begin.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 5, as follows:**

Whether sector number  $m$  is greater than the maximum sector number  $m_{\max}$  is then determined (step S9). In this ~~example~~ example, maximum sector number  $m_{\max}$  is 32. If sector number  $m$  is less than or equal to  $m_{\max}$ , the procedure loops back to step S6 and steps S7 and S8 repeat. If sector number  $m$  is greater than  $m_{\max}$ , control goes to step S10.